

**ARKADELPHIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES: JANUARY 15, 2013**

The Arkadelphia Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Center of L.M. Goza Middle School, 1305 Caddo Street.

**Members Present:** Dr. Jeff Root, President; Dr. Kenneth G. Harris, Jr., Vice President; Dr. Shelly Perrin, Secretary; Ms. Terri King, Mr. Billy Groom, Mr. Rodney Moore, and Ms. Karrie Goodman.

The President called the meeting to order and established a quorum with seven (7) members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 27, 2012; and special meeting of January 8, 2013 were approved as presented.

**REPORT OF EXCELLENCE**

Board Member, Dr. Shelly Perrin, was honored for her recent recognition by Arkansas School Board Association as an Outstanding Board Member for attaining at least twenty-five hours of authorized training in enhancement of boardmanship skills through board development activities.

Mr. Donnie Whitten, Superintendent, thanked Ms. Angela Garner, principal of L.M. Goza Middle School, for hosting the meeting. Ms. Garner introduced a presentation by Goza Choral Students featuring segments from the musical, "Seussical Jr." In addition to the musical presentation, an extensive art display created by Goza students was featured.

**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT**

Ms. Phyllis Watts, reported on student classroom projects related to COWS (Computers on Wheels).

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board and Superintendent reviewed the District's Financial Statements for November and December.

**ADVANC ED UPDATE**

Mr. Whitten provided a history of the District's accreditation process through the North Central Accreditation Commission. Arkadelphia High School became the first high school west of the Mississippi to be accredited by NCA in 1923; and by 1986, every campus in Arkadelphia Public Schools reached and has maintained this accreditation through the AdvancEd national governing board. The District's three-day process which occurs every five years began January 14 to conclude on January 16, 2013 with a public board meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building. During that time, the Board and Administration receives preliminary highlights of the report/recommendations of the AdvancED Team review.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW**

Mr. Whitten reviewed information regarding the 2013 Arkansas Legislative Session and proposals being considered in the areas of Professional Development, Charter Schools, School Choice, and Teacher Retirement. Monthly updates on education-related legislative actions will be provided during board meetings.

**SCHOOL SAFETY INFORMATION**

The Superintendent provided an update on the District's plans and actions for safety on each campus. Staff members have been receiving training and information from Clark County Sheriff and Arkadelphia Chief of Police departments; lock-down drills are conducted, and frequent revision of the District's crisis plans continues on a regular basis. The District has two resource officers who are available to each campus, one stationed at the Goza campus, and one at the

High School.

#### **NEW TECH MID-YEAR UPDATE**

Ms. Cheryl Merk, Assistant Principal at AHS; and Mr. Bud McMillion, Engineering teacher, provided a mid-year update on progress of the New Tech program at Arkadelphia High School. Ms. Merk reported that numbers of students experiencing subject failure from 2012 to 2013; numbers have gone down since the New Tech program has been implemented. Additional information was provided concerning addressing parent concerns through conferences, tours of the program, and implementation of improvement in various areas.

Mr. Bud McMillion reported that a local manufacturing industry, DanFoss, is sending a team of engineers to the High School on January 23 to present a project to a 9<sup>th</sup> grade class for their implementation.

Information was provided by the administrators concerning regular support/training visits from New Tech coaches for assistance to the teachers of the program, as well as future training for approximately 28-30 teachers during the summer of 2013.

#### **BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH**

Mr. Whitten expressed appreciation to School Board members for their support, dedication, and commitment to the school district.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Dr. Root recognized Superintendent Whitten his recent visit as part of an Arkansas educator team invited to Apple Headquarters in San Diego, California. Mr. Whitten was selected to be on the team of eight delegates from Arkansas that included two legislators for the purpose of receiving education on preparing students for the future world of technology.

#### **PERSONNEL**

The Board retired to executive session at 7:20 p.m. to consider recommendations evaluation, hiring, and resignation.

In open session following executive session, the following actions were taken:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent:

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Dr. Perrin, and carried 7-0 to approve:

**EMPLOYMENT:**        **Michael Shepherd**, Sr. JROTC Instructor – at scale, Contract # of days TBD.

**RESIGNATION/INTENT TO RETIRE:**   **Donna Grigsby**, Paraprofessional; Effective 1-15-13

A motion was made by Dr. Harris, seconded by Ms. King, and carried 7-0 to renew the contract of Superintendent Donnie Whitten with extension of one (1) year to total three (3) year contract, with salary and benefits TBD.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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**DR. SHELLY PERRIN, SECRETARY**